

## SUBCHAPTER A—PERSONNEL SYSTEM

### PART 2—PURPOSE AND GENERAL PROVISION

Sec.

- 2.1 Purpose, scope, and applicability.
- 2.2 References.
- 2.3 GAO Personnel Appeals Board.
- 2.4 Merit system principles.
- 2.5 Prohibited personnel practices.
- 2.6 Veterans' preference.

AUTHORITY: 31 U.S.C. 732.

SOURCE: 45 FR 68375, Oct. 15, 1980, unless otherwise noted.

#### §2.1 Purpose, scope, and applicability.

(a) This regulation establishes and sets forth the basic policy for the General Accounting Office (GAO) personnel system. Personnel management is a primary responsibility of all who plan, direct, or supervise the work of employees. The objective of personnel management is to contribute to the effective accomplishment of GAO's mission through proper acquisition, development, fair treatment, motivation, compensation and productive utilization of employees.

(b) Nothing in this regulation prohibits or restricts any lawful effort to achieve equal employment opportunity through affirmative action.

#### §2.2 References.

- (a) Subchapters III and IV of Chapter 7 of Title 31 U.S.C.
- (b) Title 5, United States Code.

[45 FR 68375, Oct. 15, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 56979, Dec. 22, 1982]

#### §2.3 GAO Personnel Appeals Board.

The General Accounting Office Personnel Appeals Board is established by 31 U.S.C. 751. This board will promulgate regulations providing for employee appeals and establishing its operating procedures.

[47 FR 56979, Dec. 22, 1982]

#### §2.4 Merit system principles.

(a) Merit personnel systems are based on the principle that an organization is best served by motivated, competent, honest and productive workers. In a merit system, employees are hired,

promoted, rewarded, and retained on the basis of individual ability and fitness for employment without regard to race, color, sex, religion, age, or national origin. Central to this principle is the protection of employees from discrimination, improper political influence and personal favoritism.

(b) Equal employment opportunity is an integral part of every merit system. Affirmative action plans, designed to provide a work force reflective of the Nation's diversity, must assure that both in operation and results the merit system reflects equal opportunity at every step of the personnel process.

(c) GAO personnel systems shall embody the following merit system principles:

(1) Recruitment should be from qualified individuals from appropriate sources in an endeavor to achieve a work force from all segments of society, and selection and advancement should be determined solely on the basis of relative ability, knowledge, and skills, after fair and open competition which assures that all receive equal opportunity.

(2) All employees and applicants for employment should receive fair and equitable treatment in all aspects of personnel management without regard to political affiliation, race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, age, or handicapping condition, and with proper regard for their privacy and constitutional rights.

(3) Equal pay should be provided for work of substantially equal value, with appropriate consideration of both national and local rates paid by employers in the private sector, and appropriate incentives and recognition should be provided for excellence in performance.

(4) All employees should maintain high standards of integrity, conduct, and concern for the public interest.

(5) The work force should be used efficiently and effectively.

(6) Employees should be retained on the basis of the adequacy of their performance, inadequate performance should be corrected, and employees should be separated who cannot or will